

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /066 W

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R 310755Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1607

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MY

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: STATE 242314 (NOTAL)

1. IN REFTEL DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED WE CONSULT WITH GERMAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES HER,IOITH VIEW TOWARDS OBTAINING CONTINUED EXPRESSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER SMUGGLING OF HEROIN AND OTHER NARCOTICS FROM MALAYSIA TO WESTERN EUROPE. WE STRONGLY AGREE WITH REASONING THAT NARCOTICS PROBLEM SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM AND NOT AS AN EXCLUSIVELY AMERICAN CONCERN. HOWEVER, THIS RECOMMENDATION SEEMS TO SUGGEST MALAYSIA IS INSUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM AND OF MALAYSIA'S PART IN INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING NETWORKS; WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE TRUE. WE ARE POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT A TWO-PART FEATURE STORY ON THE "AMSTERDAM CONNECTION" AND THE ROLE OF MALAYSIANS IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING WHICH APPEARED IN MALAYSIA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED
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"NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST), ON OCT 19 AND 26, AND AN EDITORIAL

ON THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM WHICH ALSO APPEARED
IN THE NST ON OCT 26.

2. ALSO, IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT THE GOVERNMENT HAS
ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A CABINET COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF SIX
MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIALS AND CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER TO INVESTIGATE THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG ADDICTION,
THEIR IMPLICATIONS AND STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE
PROBLEMS. IN SHORT, MALAYSIA IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER ITS
DOMESTIC NARCOTICS PROBLEM, OVER THE ROLE PLAYED BY MALAYSIA
AND MALAYSIANS IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SMUGGLING AND BY
THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN GENERAL. FURTHER, THE
GOM AND THE VARIOUS MALAYSIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE
NORMALLY BEEN QUITE COOPERATIVE WITH US IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION
AND CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS.

3. RATHER THAN NONSPECIFIC EXPRESSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL
CONCERN WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT THE U.S. TAKE THE INITIATIVE
IN PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT BY CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS
THAILAND, WEST GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, THE NETHERLANDS, HONG KONG,
MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE, ALTHOUGH KUALA LUMPUR DEA QUESTIONS
WHETHER MALAYSIAN POLICE PERSONNEL WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK
WITH THAI AUTHORITIES IN VIEW OF (AS MALAYSIANS PERCEIVE IT)
WIDE-SCALE CORRUPTION AMONG THAI OFFICIALDOM OF AN
INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE TARGETED AGAINST TRAFFICKERS
ALONG THE THAILAND-MALAYSIA-WESTERN EUROPE SMUGGLING
ROUTES. SUCH AS TASK FORCE WOULD PROVIDE A FOCUS FOR
COLLATION OF NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPED BY THE POLICE
FORCES OF ALL THE CONCERNED COUNTRIES, AND PROMOTE THE IDEA
OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA06374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750378-0447
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975102/aaaaabgr.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 242314
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS COOPERATION
TAGS: SNAR, MY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006